A PROCLAMATION

Anent Linen-Cloth.

JAMES by the Grace of GOD, King of *Great-Britain*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith; to Macers of Our Privy Council, or Meſſengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and ſeverally, ſpecially conſtitute, Greeting: Foraſmuch as by the 43 *Act* of the firſt Seſſion, firſt Parliament of King *Charles* 2, of ever bleſſed Memory, All Merchants and others whatſoever, are diſcharged to Tranſport out of this Kingdom any Linen-Yarn, and all Weavers are diſcharged to make any Linen-Cloth of the price of 10 *ß. ſcots* the Ell or above, under the breadth of an Ell and two Inches: And by the ſaid *Act*, it is Statute and Ordained, that all Linen be taken up by the Selvege, and not by the Rig, and that all Linen-Cloth be bleetched without Lime, under the reſpective Penalties contained in the ſaid *Act*: As alſo, by the 12 *Act* of the 3d *Parliament* of K. *Charles* 2, the *Act* above-mentioned is Ratified and Approven in all points: And it is further Ordained, that all Linen brought to the Mercat for publick Sale, be made up of Pieces, and Half-Pieces, and that the Piece contain 24 Ells, and the Half-Piece 12 Ells; and that it contain not an Ell more or leſs, under the pain of Confiſcation thereof, as at more length is contained in the ſaid *Act*. And it being Our Royal Intention to Encourage Manufactories within this Kingdom, and particularly to bring the Linen-Cloth unto Credit Abroad, to the great and undoubted Advantage of the Nation; Therefore, We with Advice of Our Council of Trade, Do hereby Revive the ſaids two *Acts*, in all the Heads and Articles thereof; And that the ſamine may take better effect in all Time coming, We do hereby Ordain the Burghs of *Innerneß*, *Elgin*, *Bamff*, *Aberdene*, *Monroß*, *St Johnſtoun*, *Dundee*, *Cowper*, *Innerkeithing*, *Kirkcaldie*, *Stirling*, *Linlithgow*, *Edinburgh*, *Glaſgow*, *Dumbartoun*, *Air*, *Irwine*, *Wigtoun*, *Dumfreis*, *Jedburgh*, *Kelſo*, *Peebles*, *Hadingtoun*, and *Dumbar*, to Erect an Office in their reſpective Towns, and to place a Man therein for meaſuring and taking notice that all Linen-Cloth be made conform to the Laws above-written in all points, and that the ſaid Office be kept open from Eight of the Clock in the Morning till Twelve, and from Two till Six at Night; and for that effect, Ordains all Perſons that Trade in Linen, to bring the ſame to any of theſe Offices they ſhall think fit, and being there tryed, and found ſufficient, to have the Town Seal put upon each end of the Cloth, for which the ſaid Meaſurer is to have 8 Pennies *Scots* for the whole Piece, and 4 Pennies *Scots* for the Half-Piece; and in-caſe the ſaid Cloth, having the Town Seal, ſhall be found narrower, or ſhorter, or any part of the Piece courſer than another, or otherways than is preſcribed by the Acts above-written, then and in that caſe, the Town ſhall be obliged to pay to the Buyer, three times the price of the Cloth. And We do Require and Command, the Burghs above-mentioned, to Erect ſuch Offices within their reſpective Towns, betwixt and the firſt of *November* next, under all higheſt pain, and the Neglecters and Diſobeyers to be lookt on as Contemners of Our Royal Authority. And further, We do hereby give Liberty and Allowance to all other Burghs as ſhall think fit to Erect ſuch an Office within their reſpective Towns to do the ſamine, betwixt and the firſt of *November* foreſaid with Certification, if they omit the doing thereof betwixt and that time, they ſhall Tyne and Amit the Priviledges thereof in time coming. And whereas by the Act of Parliament above-mentioned, Linen-Cloth under the price of 10 *ß. Scots* is not ordained to be made of the breadth above-written, notwithſtanding that much Cloth of leſs breadth is exported: Therefore We with Advice foreſaid, Ordain all Linen Cloth above 8 *ß. Scots* an Ell, to be of the breadth and length above-written. And laſtly, We Ordain, that all Waiters, Surveyers, and others, take particular Inſpection on all Linen-Cloth to be exported furth out of this Kingdom after the ſaid firſt of *November*, and make Seizure of all ſuch as ſhall want the Seals above-written, the half whereof ſo ſeized ſhall belong to the Apprehender, and the other half to be brought in to Our Council of Trade for Our uſe. And that Our Royal Pleaſure herein may be known, Our Will is, and We Charge you ſtrictly, and Command, that incontinent, theſe Our Letters ſeen, ye paſs to Mercat-Croſs of *Edinburgh*, and all other places needful, and there in Our Royal Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make Publication of Our Pleaſure in the Premiſſes, that punctual Obedience may be given thereto, and none pretend Ignorance.

Given at Edinburgh, *the Fifteenth day of* Auguſt, *One thouſand ſix hundred and eighty eight Years, and of Our Reign the Fourth Year.*

Per Actum Dominorum Concilii Commercii.
Ro: Maine Cls. Concilii Commercii.

GOD ſave the KING.

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